

Message Text

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11
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W
----- 112504

R 031531Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7487
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, SG
SUBJECT: CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SENEGAL/AIR AFRIQUE

REF: A) STATE 285043, B) STATE 285700

1. SUMMARY: SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT GOS WOULD BE WILLING TO POSTPONE RESUMPTION PROPOSED CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL APRIL 1977. DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO EMBASSY FOR PREPARATION AND DELIVERY WRITTEN PROPOSAL TO GOS CONCERNING TIME AND PLACE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM, COUNTRY OFFICER KILLION AND EMBOFF MET NOVEMBER 30 WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALIOUNE NDOYE, GOS DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT, TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR

NEXT PHASE OF CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS. NDOYE SUGGESTED THAT SECOND ROUND OF TALKS TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL 1977 RATHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1976. NDOYE ASSURED ORALLY THAT STATUS QUO FOR PANAM OPERATIONS WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN INTERIM. DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS DOUDOU DIOP OF GOS FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPARATELY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR APRIL NEGOTIATIONS RESUMPTION DATE. IN VIEW OF INDICATION CONTAINED REF (A) THAT US SIDE ALSO FAVORS APRIL DATE, EMOASSY REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE APRIL MEETING IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE, WITH EXACT DATES IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO NAME THEM.

3. NDOYE REITERATED SENEGAL'S INTEREST IN MIAMI ROUTE, AND DISPLAYED NO RETREAT FROM SENEGALESE POSITIONS TAKEN DURING DAKAR TALKS. THOUGH IT SEEMS CLEAR TO EMBASSY THAT PRINCIPAL PRESSURE FOR MIAMI RIGHTS COMES FROM SENEGALESE SIDE, NDOYE CLAIMED THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE IN SENEGALESE AND IVOIRIAN POSITIONS ON NORTH AMERICAN LANDING RIGHTS. HE ARGUED DISINGENUOUSLY THAT SINCE PANAM HAD RIGHTS BEYOND DAKAR IN OTHER AIR AFRIQUE COUNTRIES, AIR AFRIQUE SHOULD HAVE RIGHTS ELSEWHERE IN US IN ADDITION TO NEW YORK, HENCE REQUEST FOR MIAMI; FURTHER, SINCE PAN AM SOUGHT RIGHTS BEYOND DAKAR TO NON-AIR AFRIQUE COUNTRIES SUCH AS GHANA, AIR AFRIQUE WAS JUSTIFIED IN ASKING FOR STOPS IN CANADA BEYOND NEW YORK. NDOYE REMARKED THAT IF PAN AM WERE TO DROP EITHER OF THESE INTERESTS, SENEGAL WOULD NATURALLY WAIVE ITS CORRESPONDING REQUEST. AS IT WAS, THIS RECIPROCITY WAS MATTER OF MOST BASIC PRINCIPLE, HE ASSERTED. NDOYE PURPORTED TO BE UNIMPRESSED BY US ARGUMENT THAT AIR AFRIQUE ALREADY HAD ACCESS TO MUCH RICHER MARKET IN NEW YORK THAN PAN AM HAD IN AFRICA, INSISTING THAT THIS PERSPECTIVE GREATLY EXAGGERATED REALISTIC VOLUME OF TRAFFIC WHICH AIR AFRIQUE COULD TAP ON NEW YORK FLIGHTS.

4. NDOYE INDICATED THAT SENEGAL REGARDED QUEST FOR LANDING RIGHTS AS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM DETERMINATION OF ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF RUN. FORMER WAS MATTER OF NATIONAL AVIATION POLICY, WHILE LATTER WAS UP TO AIRLINE MANAGEMENT. ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE, HE ALLEGED, UNTIL MEMBER COUNTRY OF AIR AFRIQUE HAD NEGOTIATED RIGHTS SOMEWHERE, WHICH WOULD THEN BE PRESENTED TO AIR AFRIQUE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AT ONE OF ITS BIENNIAL MEETINGS (NEXT ONE TAKING PLACE THIS MONTH). FLIGHTS
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WOULD NOT THEN COMMENCE UNLESS AIR AFRIQUE
ANALYSTS DETERMINED THEY WERE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE.

5. NDOYE NOTED THAT SUCH "POLITICAL" QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE GABONESE WITHDRAWAL FROM AIR AFRIQUE WERE DEALT WITH IN ANNUAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NEXT OF WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE NEXT SUMMER. HE DISCOUNTED SERIOUSNESS OF GABON'S DISSATISFACTION, ATTRIBUTING IT TO GABON'S PRESIDENT BONGO'S DESIRE TO NAME GABONESE

NATIONAL TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE
POSITION IN AIRLINE. NDOYE NOTED
THAT DECISIONS IN AIR AFRIQUE COUNCILS NOT TAKEN ON BASIS OF
MAJORITY, BUT ON "CONSENSUS" WHICH MIGHT IN FACT REFLECT VIEW
OF MINORITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.

6. EMBASSY WILL SEEK FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSESS SENEGAL'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR AFRIQUE, AND TO PROBE SENEGALESE VIEW OF
NEGOTIATIONS. IN VIEW NDOYE'S UNCOMPROMISING ATTITUDE, WE WILL
SEEK OUT ADDITIONAL OFFICIALS IN POSITION TO INJECT FLEXIBILITY
AND REALISM INTO GOS POSITION. WHILE NDOYE'S REMARKS IN PARA 4
ABOVE SEEM AT ODDS WITH PRESENCE OF AIR AFRIQUE REP IN CIVAIR
NEGOTIATIONS, SEQUENCE HE ENVISAGES SUGGESTS EVEN HE RECOGNIZES
THE IMPROBABILITY OF INITIATING AIR AFRIQUE FLIGHTS THROUGH
CARIBBEAN TO MIAMI; THUS WE SEE SOME POSSIBILITY THERE COULD
BE EVENTUAL COMPROMISE, PERHAPS ALONG LINES ALTERNATIVE DESCRIBED
PARA 3.B., REFTTEL (A).
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, LANDING RIGHTS, POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAKAR07954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760449-0097
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacnnp.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 285043, 76 STATE 285700
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SENEGAL/AIR AFRIQUE
TAGS: EAIR, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006